

Orders conceiued by the Lords of his Maiesties

Privie Counsell, and by his Highnesse speciall direction, commanded to be put in execution for the restraint of killing, and eating of Flesh this next Lent, and to be executed aswell by the Lord Maior within the Citie and Suburbs of London, and by the Officers of the Liberties and exempt places in and about the same, as by order to be prescribed by the Lords Lieutenants of all the Countys of the Realme, to the Justices of Peace, Lords of Liberties, and Officers of Corporate Townes.

22. January, in the fist yeere of his Maiesties Reigne of great Britaine, France and Ireland.



The Kings most Excellent Maiestie vnderstanding of the great disorders heretofore, and especially the last Lent, committed in killing and eating Flesh in the time of Lent, chiefly in the Citie of London, and the Liberties thereto adioyning, straightly chargeth and commandeth, That these Orders following, be obserued and put in execution.

First, there shall bee onely eight Butchers licenced by the Lord Maior within the Citie of London, viz. foure in Eastcheape, and foure in S. Nicholass Shambles, Who shall be of the poorer sort, and shall not pay any thing for their Licences, nor ioyne with them any partners.

That every of the said Butchers so to bee licenced Within the Citie, and Liberties thereof, doe bter and sell in their open Shops, in such sort as in open time they are accustomed to doe, and at such Rates and prices as shall be set downe by Order of the Lord Maior of London for that City, and the Liberties thereof: and besides every Butcher shall keepe a perfect Booke what quantity of Flesh they kill every day, and of what kindes, and to what persons they sell and bter the same, and the said Butchers to certifie the Lord Maior, to the end the Lords of his Maiesties priuy Counsell may bee informed by him, how the Lawes and Statutes in this behalfe prouided, are obserued Within the said Citie and Liberties thereof.

That there be licenced to kill and bter Flesh in the Suburbes of the said Citie, as in the Countys of Middlesex and Surrey neere unto London, onely tenne Butchers, and these to bee licenced by the Justices Within the severall Limits, Whereof two to be of the Quorum, that is, two Without Temple Barre in the Parish of S. Clement Danes, two Without Smithfield Barres in the Parish of S. Pulchres, or Clarketonwell, or one of them, one in Whitecrosse streete, one in Norton Folgate, one in White Chappell, one in S. Katherines, two in Southwarke, and for the City of Westminster, and the Liberties thereof, two Butchers to be licenced by the chiefe Officer of that Liberty, and those to bee as before expressed, for the said Citie and the Liberties, of the poorer sort inhabiting in those places, and to be licenced without any money, or other consideration to be giuen for the same, and to bee bound to obserue the like Orders in every respect, as those that are to be appointed for London, and the said Clerke of the Market, Officer and Justice, there to see them, and to set the prices of the Victuall to be btered in those places.

That no person be permitted to kill or sell any Flesh but to those that are licenced, nor in any other place then before is specified, vpon paine to forfeit the Flesh to bee giuen to the poore in the prisons, and to suffer imprisonment.

That the Constables, Churchwardens, and other publique Officers bee authorised in London, and the Liberties thereof, by the Lord Maior, and by the Justices in the Countys of Middlesex and Surrey, and the forenamed Officers in Westminster, to make search, and to see that the licenced Butchers, nor any other doe kill or bter any Flesh, nor doe any thing contrary to these Orders.

And for the better knowledge of the trueth of disorders in this kind, and redresse of the inconveniences, the Lord Maior of London, and euery other Officer here appointed, shall call before them, and send for any of the seruants of any Inholders, Victuallers, Tauerners, and keepers of ordinary Tabbles, and such other that bter Victuall, to examine them vpon their corporall Oathes, what Flesh is, or hath bene during the Lent season, dressed, killed, btered, or eaten in their houses, which if they shall refuse to doe, then to commit to prison the said seruants so refusing vpon their oathes to declare the trueth.

That the Lord Maior himselfe shall graunt no warrant for buying of flesh in Lent, but to such as shall haue or shew to him licence in writing, according to the Lawes of the Realme to eate flesh, and the same licence to be viewed and Registered, and booke to be kept thereof, to be shewed when the same shall be required, unlesse it be to Embassadours and Agents of foraine Princes.

That the Lord Maior shall now presently before Lent, or at the beginning thereof, cause all Inholders, keepers of Ordinarie Tables, Victuallers, Alehouse keepers, and Tauerneors Within the Citie and liberties thereof to appeare before him, or such persons as he shall appoint meete for that purpose, and shall take bonds with sufficient suerties of euery of them in good summes of money, viz. one hundred pound the principall, and the suerties thirty pound apeece to his Maiesties vse, not to dresse any flesh in their houses this Lent time for any respect, nor suffer it to be eaten, except it be for some such person that lyeth in their house, that also hath licence through sicknesse, or other necessary cause to eate flesh. Also like bonds shall be taken of the Poulters, not to vtter any Poultry Ware, but to such as shall be likewise licensed to eate flesh, and that such as will not giue such bonds, that they be secluded from all vtterance of Victualls during the Lent season, excepting those Poulters that doe ordinarily serue his Maiesties housshould, of whome like bonds shall be taken by his Maiesties Officers of the Greenecloth: the like bonds with suerties shall be taken of the like persons vpon like penalties by the chiefe Officer of Westminster, and the liberties thereof.

And for the Butchers and other that come with Victualls of flesh out of the Countrie to the Citie, the Lord Maior shall cause certaine persons to watch at the Gates and other like places in the Subburbs where flesh may be brought in, to view and search, and to intercept the same. The Carriers of the said Victualls of flesh if any shall be taken, to be guided to the persons houses that haue licence, and this watch to be contynned dayly during the whole time of Lent: And if any of those watchmen be found negligent and corrupt in his charge, then he to be committed to prison, there to continue during the whole Lent. And in case the same shall be found to be brought to any person not warranted, or licensed to eate it as is aforesayd, then the same to be forfeited and sold at the direction of the Lord Maior for the vse of the poore in the Hospitalles and prisons in the Citie, and the bringers to be imprisoned.

And for that it is to be doubted that the Fishmongers, vpon the obseruation of the said Orders, will take occasion thereby to inhanse the prices as well of fresh as of Sea fish, it is thought meete that the Lord Maior shall take order with the sayd Fishmongers, that as well the salt as fresh fish shall be vttered at reasonable prices.

That euery of the Butchers to be licensed as aforesayd, be bound in a sufficient bond with good suerties to his Maiesties vse, to obserue these orders in every respect, and these bonds to be taken by the Lord Maior, and other the Officers aforesayd.

And as those orders are expressly devised to be executed in the Citie of London, and places neere to the same: so his Maiesties pleasure and commaundement is, that the execution of these or like orders be performed by the Commaundement of his Maiesties Lieutenants to be sent to the Justices of Peace in all Shires within their Rule, and to all other Officers in Townes Corporate, or in any Liberties, with like order for bonds to be taken to his Maiesties vse.

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